



**State of Arizona**

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## **Governor Brewer Announces Arizona's Participation in "Race to the Top" Educational Reform Program**

### ***Challenges Arizona's Education Community to Compete for \$4.35B in Federal Grant Funds***

PHOENIX - Arizona Governor Jan Brewer today announced Arizona's participation in the federal school grant competition, "Race to the Top." \$4.35 billion in competitive federal grants will be awarded to states at the forefront of supporting and implementing educational reform and innovation in the classroom.

The \$4.35 billion education fund is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) enacted earlier this year, which encourages states to implement educational reforms in four key areas including: improving the distribution of qualified teachers; establishing a longitudinal data system; enhancing academic standards and assessments and supporting Arizona's struggling schools.

Governor Brewer today also announced the appointment of Debra Duvall as Special Advisor to the Governor, overseeing the state's involvement in the "Race to the Top" competition. Ms. Duvall will work in tandem with the Governor's Education Policy Advisor, Karla Phillips, and with P-20 Executive Director, Debra Raeder, to ensure that Arizona submits an application that reflects Governor Brewer's vision for achieving educational excellence and modernization in Arizona.

"I am thrilled to have Ms. Duvall join my phenomenal team of education leaders," Governor Brewer stated. "Her years of experience and expertise in this arena will prove invaluable in securing additional federal education funds and driving educational reform in the state."

Ms. Duvall has more than forty years of experience in the educational arena, having worked as an educator, as a Principal and most recently as Superintendent of the Mesa Unified School District. There she spent nine years as Superintendent and numerous additional years as Associate Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Curriculum and K-12 Instruction. In 2008 she was Arizona's Candidate for National Superintendent of the Year.

Ms. Duvall received her Bachelor of Arts from San Jose State College and her Master of Arts from California State College. She went on to receive her Doctor of Education degree from Arizona State University. Ms. Duvall resides in Mesa with her husband, and they have one adult son.

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